

FOCUS

Missouri

Show Me  information

January 23, 2009

MISSOURI COMMUNITY NEWS

Silex Receives Federal Funds for Sewer System



U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill has announced that the Village of Silex in Lincoln County will receive \$752,560 in federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a centralized sewer system. The money is being provided through USDA's Rural Development

funding initiative, which works to improve the economy and quality of life in rural communities by supporting and providing government loans and grants.

[Read more...](#)

Small Business Seminars Coming to Kirksville

A free seminar series in the Kirksville area, designed to sustain small businesses, is being hosted by Missouri



Enterprise. The first 2009 Business and Growth Strategies Seminar Series will be Jan. 29 from 8-10:30 a.m. at the Kirksville Area Technical School and will focus on increasing revenue, improving profits and sustaining growth. Interested participants must register at [Missouri Enterprise](#) or can call 800-956-2682. [Read more...](#)

Western Half of I-64 Opens to Large Crowds



More than 10,000 people celebrated in December the newly completed section of Interstate 64 from Interstate 270 to Interstate 170. Before the first cars drove on the roadway, people were able to walk, bike, push a stroller and enjoy the \$535 million reconstruction project. The western five miles were completed

two weeks ahead of schedule. [Read more...](#)

COMMUNITY

WORKFORCE

BUSINESS

GLOBAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 25 - 27, 2009

[IEDC Leadership Summit](#)

Tempe, AZ

January 26 - 28, 2009

[Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop](#)

January 27, 2009

["International Freight Insurance" Workshop](#)

January 29, 2009

[Missouri Conference on Transportation](#)

January 29, 2009

[Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission Meeting](#)

FOCUS ON MISSOURI

Information on Governor Nixon's Show Me JOBS Initiative/Small Business Loans



On January 13, Governor Nixon signed [Executive Order 09-03](#), which directs the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) to work with the Missouri Development Finance Board (MDFB) to create a pool of funds designated for low-interest and no-interest direct loans to small businesses. The pool of about \$2 million, expected to come from participation fees collected on MDFB loans, will be enough to provide 80 loans of \$25,000 each to small business owners across the state. [Read more...](#)

Film Productions Bring Jobs and Business to Missouri

If you've always wanted to see yourself on the big screen, there's never been a better chance - if you live in Missouri. Two feature films on opposite sides of the state - in St. Louis and Southwest Missouri - begin production soon, and several thousand extras are needed. In St. Louis, locals have the opportunity to provide the background for stars George Clooney and Vera Farmiga in Paramount Pictures' *Up in the Air*. In Forsyth and Branson, filming will start in late February on *Winter's Bone*. Official information for the casting calls can be found at [Missouri Film Commission](#). Jerry Jones of the Missouri Film Commission said the film productions could pour millions of dollars into the local economies. [Read more...](#)



January 29, 2009
[Ten Marketing and Sales Techniques to Increase Your Business](#)
Kirksville

February - October, 2009
[GLOBE XVII Program](#)
(Nine-month program meets monthly on the second TUESDAY of each month, except April)

February 3, 2009
[Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board Meeting & Public Hearing](#)

February 5, 2009 - Session 1
["The Basics of International Trade" Seminar Series](#)

February 18, 2009 - Session 2

March 18, 2009 - Session 3
April 8, 2009 - Session 4

February 9 - 10, 2009
[MEDC Winter Conference](#)

February 18, 2009
[Missouri Chamber Day at the Capitol](#)

February 23 - 25, 2009
[IEDC's Economic Development Credit Analysis Course](#)
Baltimore, MD

March 17, 2009
["The Intersection of Animal and Human Health Opportunities for Collaboration Between Canada and the Kansas City Region"](#)

MERIC
TRENDSIGHTS

Retail Trade Analysis: West Central Workforce Investment Area



Retail trade is one of the key indicators of regional economic health, and retail pull factors measure the retail sales captured by counties. The retail strength of a county is a function of customer base served, the buying power of the customer base, and quality of the retail environment. The West Central WIA Retail Trade report shows Pettis County had the highest pull factor in the region. [Read more...](#)

American Community Survey Gives Midsized Areas Their First Detailed Update Since 2000

New data released by the U.S. Census Bureau gives more than 2,500 midsized counties, cities and towns nationwide (those with populations between 20,000 and 64,999) their first statistical "portrait" since the 2000 Census on a wide range of key socioeconomic and housing topics. For Missouri, that means an additional 39 counties and 28 cities and towns now have access to updated data. [Read more...](#)

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Helping You Make Informed Decisions



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

MLK Holiday Awards Honor DED's James Robnett, Jr.

James Robnett, Jr., DED Compliance Team Incentive Specialist, was honored last week at the Columbia Values Diversity breakfast. Two awards are given each year: one to honor the contributions of an individual and the other to honor the contributions of a group whose work in the community reflects Martin Luther King Jr.'s values and teachings. Robnett has embraced the practices and values of King since he participated in sit-ins as a high school student. In 2006, Robnett helped form Concerned Citizens of Boone County. The group's mission is to improve relations between the community - particularly youth - and local law enforcement. [Read more...](#)

AmerenUE Labadie Power Plant Employees Donate to Loving Hearts and Cardinal Glennon

AmerenUE's Labadie employees raised \$13,800 for Loving Hearts and St. Louis Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. Employees bought gifts for Loving Hearts in Washington, Mo., and donated \$10,000 in toys to Cardinal Glennon Hospital. [Read more...](#)



FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

Companies Planning to Hire in 2009

Reports continue to come in highlighting companies that are anxiously seeking workers, even while others are laying off due to the recession. *CNN/CareerBuilder* lists these [13 companies](#) that are looking for qualified applicants in 2009. At the last meeting of St. Louis' Bounce Back IT network/ [Greater St. Louis Works](#), 12 employers announced they are currently seeking IT talent. In addition to hiring in specific industries, the *Wall Street Journal* blog, [Independent Street](#), predicts a major boost in entrepreneurial activity as downsized workers seek to start their own companies and other trends converge.

DWD Informs Congressional Leaders on Job Training Fund Proposals

With President Barack Obama announcing plans to increase funding for job training programs as part of his economic stimulus package, the state's workforce system is reaching out to provide information on this legislation. DWD recently prepared a memo to all of Missouri's congressional leaders describing the activities and achievements of Missouri's workforce system and detailing the reasons for the urgent



FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Entrepreneurs Could be Eligible for \$50M Venture Funds

The Brooklyn Gold Venture Fund, which has an office in Kansas City, is interested in investing in companies in the Midwest, particularly in Missouri and the Kansas City area. The \$50 million fund is looking to invest in entrepreneurial companies in the industrial, distribution, health care, manufacturing, service and Web-based media venture categories. [Read more...](#)

Kauffman Foundation Commits \$5M for Two New Entrepreneur Programs

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation has committed over \$5 million to two new programs that will focus on nurturing early-stage technology entrepreneurs and stimulating the economy with high-tech, high-growth ventures. The Kauffman Entrepreneur Fellows program and the Entrepreneur Postdoctoral Fellows program have developed from the multimillion-dollar initiative, Kauffman Laboratories for Enterprise Creation. [Read more...](#)

April 19 - 23, 2009

[Heartland Economic Development Course](#)

Adams Pointe Conference Center - Blue Springs, Missouri

April 30 - May 1, 2009

[Entrepreneurial and Small Business Strategies](#)

PAST ISSUES

[Missouri Focus
January 16, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus
January 9, 2009](#)

DED PRESS RELEASES

QUICK LINKS

[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

[State of Missouri](#)

[Missouri Business Portal](#)

[Missouri Women Owned Business Network](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

[MissouriCareerSource.com](#)

[MERIC](#)

[Division of Tourism](#)

[Missouri Development Finance Board](#)

[Missouri Community](#)

need for additional funding, including recent economic trends and the crunch from increased unemployment insurance claimants. A recent OP-ED in the *Springfield News-Leader* provides a perspective on the increased need for job training programs. [Read more...](#)

Mountain Grove's Bore Flex Makes Acquisitions, Expands Production

Bore Flex Industries Inc. of Mountain Grove has acquired three plants and a distribution center from Lamson & Sessions Co., a subsidiary of Memphis, Tenn.-based Thomas & Betts Corp., which manufactures electrical components for customers in the construction, industrial and utility sectors. Bore Flex will expand its capacity for production of high-density polyethylene pipe. [Read more...](#)

Venture Funds Invest \$19M in Singulex

Singulex Inc., a biotech company with operations in the Center for Emerging Technologies in Midtown, has received an infusion of \$19 million in funding from three venture capitalist firms. Singulex plans to continue its move into more diagnostic areas, including early detection of diabetes, stroke and Alzheimer's. [Read more...](#)

[Betterment](#)

[Missouri Community Service Commission \(MCSC\)](#)

[Missouri Main Street Connection](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Economic Development at Mizzou](#)

[Missouri Procurement and Technical Assistance Centers \(MO PTAC\)](#)

[Missouri Small Business Development Centers \(SBDC\)](#)

[Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers \(SBTDC\)](#)

[Missouri Economic Development Council \(MEDC\)](#)

[International Economic Development Council \(IEDC\)](#)

[Associated Industries of Missouri \(AIM\)](#)

[Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center](#)

[Missouri General Assembly](#)

[Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)

GLOBAL NEWS

Is Your Company Ready to Export?



More than two-thirds of U.S. exporters are small businesses with fewer than 20 employees. And many of those small businesses see international trade as the best way to survive the current economic downturn. If you are trying to evaluate your company's export potential, make plans to attend the "Basics of International Trade" seminar series sponsored by the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Area Manufacturers

Association, Greater Ozarks International Trade Association and

the Small Business & Technology Development Center at Missouri State University. Session One, "Is my company ready to export?" will be held February 5. [Read](#)

[more...](#)

Save the Date - "The Intersection of Animal and Human Health Opportunities for Collaboration between Canada and the Kansas City Region"

The Consulate General of Canada, in partnership with the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, is presenting "The Intersection of Animal and Human Health Opportunities for Collaboration between Canada and the Kansas City Region" on Tuesday, March 17 at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research. You will not want to miss this great opportunity to explore business development possibilities with peers in your field. [Read more...](#)



FCStone Acquires Australian Company



Kansas City-based FCStone has purchased Australian company, Elders Risk Management Pty. Ltd. The acquired company's name will be changed to FCStone Australia Pty. Ltd. and will provide risk management consulting and transaction-execution services to producers and users of agricultural commodities such as grains, livestock, cotton and wool. [Read more...](#)



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**Questions or Comments?
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